

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MONROV 00052 041533Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /050 W
-----041539Z 068105 /47

R 041450Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3114

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 0052

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, LI

SUBJECT: REMOVAL OF DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DIGGS FROM OFFICE

1. IN A SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT ON DECEMBER 31 PRESIDENT TOLBERT DISMISSED DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER H. LAFAYETTE DIGGS. DIGGS' DISMISSAL APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN INSTIGATED BY FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS OVER ALLEGEDLY IRREGULAR RENT PAYMENTS IN LAGOS BY DIGGS DURING HIS SERVICE AS AMBASSADOR TO NIGERIA FROM 1973 TO 1975. ACCORDING TO GOL SOURCES, THE ISSUE OF THE ALLEGED MISAPPROPRIATION OF GOL FUNDS WAS RAISED BY DENNIS AT THE DECEMBER 31 CABINET MEETING. DURING THE MEETING TOLBERT APPARENTLY SENT FOR DIGGS TO PRESENT HIS SIDE OF THE STORY. HAVING FAILED TO LOCATE DIGGS WITHIN TWO HOURS, THE PRESIDENT DRAFTED A LETTER REMOVING THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FROM OFFICE FOR (ACCORDING TO THE SUNDAY EXPRESS), MANIFESTING "GROSS IRRESPONSIBILITY ... THAT HAS CAUSED GREAT FINANCIAL LOSS AND CONSIDERABLE HUMILIATION AND EMBARRASSMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT."

2. COMMENT: DIGGS HAS AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION BOTH FOR EFFICIENCY AND FOR RELATIVE HONESTY AND WAS SEEN AS ONE OF THE MOST CAPABLE MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. DENNIS' MOTIVES IN REPORTEDLY RAISING THE ISSUE BOTH IN A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT AND AT THE NEW YEARS EVE CABINET MEETING ARE UNCLEAR.

CARTER

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MONROV 00052 041533Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS, MINISTERS (DIPLOMATS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MONROV00052
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770003-0240
Format: TEL
From: MONROVIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770182/aaaacttq.tel
Line Count: 55
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 51095ddd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3667802
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REMOVAL OF DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DIGGS FROM OFFICE
TAGS: PGOV, LI, US, (TOLBERT, WILLIAM R), (DIGGS, H LAFAYETTE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/51095ddd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009